

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01

/186 W

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R 131241Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4789

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 3966

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: RESIGNATION ISTANBUL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY PRESIDENT

SUMMARY. RECENT RESIGNATION ISTANBUL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY PRESIDENT SOYSAL HAS APPARENTLY CREATED CONSIDERABLE STIR IN BUSINESS HIERARCHY HERE AND HAS REPORTEDLY DRAWN REACTION FROM MILITARY CIRCLES AND EVEN FROM PRESIDENT KORUTURK HIMSELF. WHILE STATING PUBLICLY ONLY THAT RESIGNATION PROMPTED BY DECISION OF CHAMBER'S EXECUTIVE BOARD TO SUPPORT KORUTURK'S CALL FOR REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) - JUSTICE PARTY (JP) COALITION, SOYSAL'S PRIVATE REMARKS TO CONGENOFF MAKE IT CLEAR HE STRONGLY SUPPORTS RPP LEADER ECEVIT AND HOPES FOR EARLY ELECTIONS WHICH HE BELIEVES WILL RESULT IN FORMATION RPP GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE RECENT DECISION BY EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ISTANBUL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY TO PUBLICLY SUPPORT PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S
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CALL FOR RPP'JP COALITION, CHAMBER PRESIDENT ERTUGRUL SOYSAL

ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION ON DECEMBER 8. SOYSAL HAS TO DATE REFUSED TO STATE PUBLICLY WHY HE DISAGREED WITH DECISION OR TO MAKE KNOWN HIS PREFERENCE WITH REGARD SOLUTION GOVERNMENT CRISIS. IN HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION WITH CONGENOFF ON DECEMBER 12, HOWEVER, HE ARGUED THAT RPP-JP COALITION IS MERE PLOY TO FORESTALL ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY AS REPRESENTED BY ECEVIT AND RPP. SOYSAL SAID HIS PREFERENCE IS TO FIX SPECIFIC DATE FOR NEW ELECTIONS THIS SPRING AND FORM NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH PARTICIPATION BY ALL PARTIES UNDER INDEPENDENT PRIME MINISTER TO ACT AS CARETAKER. SOYSAL SAID THAT WHILE RPP MIGHT NOT WIN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN NEW ELECTIONS HE CONFIDENT IT WOULD COME CLOSE AND WOULD BE ABLE FORM GOVERNMENT.

2. SOYSAL APPEARED SOMEWHAT BEMUSED BY REACTIONS TO HIS RESIGNATION. HE NOTED IRONICALLY HE HAD RECEIVED CALLS FROM VEHBİ KOC, SAKIP SABANCI AND OTHER TOP INDUSTRIALISTS URGING HIM WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION AND THAT MORNING HAD RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM PRESIDENT KORUTURK ASKING WHY HE OPPOSED TO RPP-JP COALITION. SOYSAL SAID HE INTENDED REPLY RESPECTFULLY THAT PRESIDENT HAD ASKED FOR EXPRESSION OF VIEWS AND HE HAD MERELY EXERCISED HIS RIGHT AS FREE CITIZEN. DURING CONVERSATION, SOYSAL RECEIVED PHONE CALL WHICH HE SAID WAS FROM ANOTHER LEADING INDUSTRIALIST WHO SAID "THE MILITARY" WAS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING SOYSAL'S VIEWS ON CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS. SOYSAL AGREED RECEIVE TWO "MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES" HIS OFFICE DECEMBER 13. HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER FURTHER DETAILS BUT APPEARED SOMEWHAT DISCONCERTED BY THE CALL.

3. IN CONVERSATION CONGENOFF, SOYSAL DID NOT RPT NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HIS RESIGNATION POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. RATHER, HE ALLUDED TO HIS EFFORTS OF PAST SEVERAL YEARS TO PERSUADE TOP INDUSTRIALISTS THAT THEY MUST TAKE GREATER INTEREST IN QUESTIONS OF "SOCIAL JUSTICE" AND MUST BEGIN OPEN UP FAMILY-OWNED ECONOMIC EMPIRES TO INVESTMENT BY GENERAL PUBLIC. HE SAID DESPITE REPEATED ASSURANCES OF AGREEMENT "THE BARONS" CONTINUED TO PROCRASTINATE AND THEIR SUPPORT OF KORUTURK'S CALL FOR RPP-JP COALITION WAS, IN HIS OPINION, FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT KOC, SABANCI AND OTHERS DID NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND OR ACCEPT NEED TO CHANGE TRADITIONAL POLICIES AND ATTITUDES. SOYSAL SAID HE HAS DISCUSSED RPP ECONOMIC VIEWS, SOME OF WHICH HE CONSIDERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUITE FUZZY, WITH TURAN GUNES AND OTHER TOP ECEVIT ADVISORS AND THAT QUESTION OF HIS SERVING AS CONSULTANT ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ALSO DISCUSSED. SOYSAL SAID BUSINESS LEADERS ARE FRIGHTENED AND SOME AT LEAST CONSIDER HIM A "LIGHTENING ROD" BETWEEN PRIVATE SECTOR AND FUTURE RPP GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT. SOYSAL IS ONLY MAJOR BUSINESS FIGURE TO DATE TO HAVE BROKEN RANKS BY PUBLICLY OPPOSING IDEA OF

RPP-JP COALITION. WHILE HIS GESTURE MAY BE FUTILE IN TERMS
INFLUENCING FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS IT HAS OBVIOUSLY NOT GONE
UNNOTICED. IT NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT HE COULD HAVE ROLE TO PLAY
AS BRIDGE TO PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS IF RPP SUCCEEDS IN COMING
TO POWER.
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